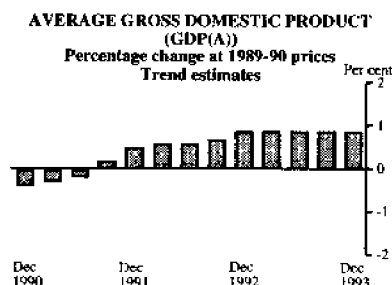


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 24 March 1994

The week in statistics ...

- ❑ Strong growth in December quarter 2
- ❑ Manufacturing the star performer as industrial growth continues 5
- ❑ Manufacturers' prices dip ... 6
- ❑ ... but so do materials costs 6
- ❑ Fall in export prices and ... 7
- ❑ ... similar fall in import prices 8
- ❑ Housing starts down for the quarter but remain high 8
- ❑ Timber pushes up building costs 9
- ❑ Home finance forges forward 10
- ❑ Rates of pay in brief ... 11
- ❑ Expected releases over the fortnight to 5 April 11
- ❑ Selected releases: 16 to 22 March 11
- ❑ The latest ...
— key national/State indicators 12



Strong growth in December quarter

The trend estimate of GDP(A), the average of the three independent measures of gross domestic product, rose 0.9 per cent in the December quarter.

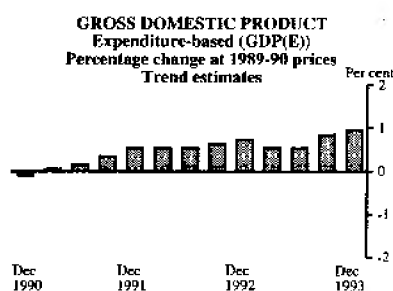
The increase in GDP(A) is attributable to rises in the trend estimates of all three components, with both the income-based measure GDP(I) and the production-based measure GDP(P) rising 0.8 per cent, and the expenditure-based measure GDP(E) growing 1.0 per cent (see below for details).

Trend GDP(A) has now recorded growth of 0.9 per cent in each of the last five quarters, and is 3.7 per cent above its level of a year earlier.

The seasonally adjusted constant price estimate for GDP(A) recorded higher growth than the trend estimate in the December quarter. Seasonally adjusted GDP(A) was up 1.7 per cent, due to increases of 1.0 per cent in GDP(I), 2.5 per cent in GDP(E) and 1.5 per cent in GDP(P). (In the remainder of this article, analysis is based on trend constant price estimates unless otherwise stated.)

MAIN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE-BASED NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AGGREGATES AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES, DECEMBER QUARTER 1993 Percentage change in trend estimates

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Final consumption expenditure		
Private	0.9	2.8
Government	-0.6	-0.1
Gross fixed capital expenditure		
Private	1.3	1.1
Public	-4.3	-5.3
Gross national expenditure	0.8	2.4
Exports of goods and services	2.2	8.2
Imports of goods and services	1.3	4.9
Gross domestic product (E)	1.0	3.1
Gross domestic product (I)	0.8	4.5

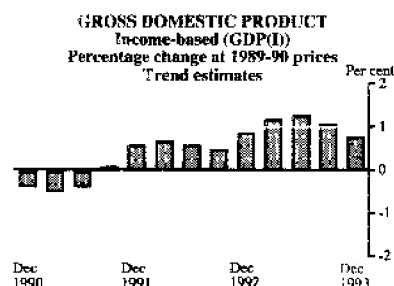


Income-based GDP — up 0.8 per cent

Expenditure-based GDP — up 1.0 per cent

The latest increase in trend estimates of GDP(E) featured:

- ☐ strong growth in private final consumption expenditure;
- ☐ the ninth successive increase in private capital expenditure on dwellings (up 2.4%);
- ☐ business investment remaining weak;
- ☐ public investment down 4.3 per cent;
- ☐ a build up in private non-farm stocks.



Trend private final consumption expenditure rose 0.9 per cent to be 2.8 per cent higher than in the December quarter 1992, reflecting growth across a broad range of goods and services. Seasonally adjusted growth was higher at 1.8 per cent in the quarter.

The trend estimates for total gross fixed capital expenditure remained unchanged in the December quarter 1993. A modest rise of 1.3 per cent for the private sector was offset by a 4.3 per cent decline for the public sector. On-going growth in dwelling construction of 2.4 per cent, and a return to modest growth in expenditure on equipment of 0.8 per cent, contributed to the increase in private expenditure. However, the continuing decline in non-dwelling construction expenditures (down 0.8%) resulted in weak growth in total business investment. The decrease of 4.3 per cent in public gross fixed capital expenditure is mainly due to a fall of 7.7 per cent in public enterprise expenditure — a fall most marked in the Commonwealth sector.

The trend estimates for private non-farm stocks increased by \$564 million following a large seasonally adjusted rise of \$827 million in this aggregate in the quarter. Exports of goods and services increased 2.2 per cent, while imports of goods and services rose 1.3 per cent in the December quarter.

The stocks to sales ratio, derived from trend data, remained virtually unchanged (0.891 in the September quarter, 0.890 in December quarter). The trend imports to sales ratio continued rising to reach a record high of 0.229 in the December quarter from 0.226 in the September quarter 1993.

Australia's terms of trade declined marginally by 0.1 per cent from 87.6 in the September quarter 1993 to 87.5 in the December quarter. The implicit price deflator for imports of goods and services increased by 0.6 per cent, while that for exports of goods and services increased by 0.5 per cent.

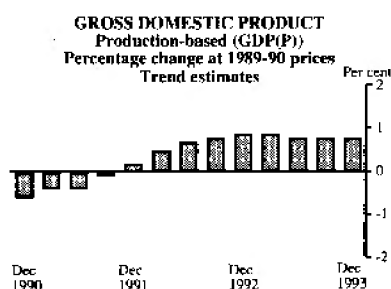
Income components at current prices: Wages, salaries and supplements rose 0.4 per cent in the December quarter 1993, reflecting a rise of 0.7 per cent in the number of wage and salary earners and a fall of 0.3 per cent in the underlying average earnings. Gross operating surplus of private corporate trading enterprises rose 4.0 per cent, following rises of 3.4 per cent and 3.9 per cent in the June and September quarters 1993 respectively.

Production-based GDP — trend up by 0.8 per cent

The trend estimate of production-based gross domestic product, GDP(P), increased by 0.8 per cent in the December quarter 1993. GDP(P) has now recorded sustained growth since the December quarter 1991. Continuing the pattern over the past few quarters, growth in the December quarter was widespread — with ten of the fourteen industry groups showing increases.

Details of the more noteworthy changes in industry trend estimates for the December quarter 1993 are:

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting increased by 1.3 per cent. This largely reflects increased crop production in the farm sector.



- ❑ Mining fell 1.8 per cent. This largely reflects a decline in oil production in the latter half of 1993.
- ❑ Manufacturing continued to grow, registering an increase of 2.2 per cent this quarter, the seventh in succession after a long period of decline. Since the December quarter of 1992 Manufacturing has grown by 8.2 per cent. Most sectors recorded strong growth.
- ❑ Construction declined by 1.2 per cent following a fall in the September quarter of 0.5 per cent. Continued growth in dwelling construction has been offset by a decline in other construction sectors.
- ❑ Wholesale trade and retail trade recorded increases of 2.4 per cent and 1.0 per cent respectively.
- ❑ Transport and storage rose slightly by 0.3 per cent. Since the December quarter 1992, steady growth in rail, water and air transport has been dampened by a decline in road transport.
- ❑ Communication increased this quarter by 1.8 per cent. Since the December quarter 1992 this industry has grown by 4.9 per cent.
- ❑ Recreation, personal and other services recorded a rise of 1.9 per cent. Growth was strongest in the entertainment and recreational services sector which increased by 2.8 per cent. The restaurants, hotels, clubs and personal services sector increased by 1.4 per cent.

The trend estimate of labour productivity (constant price gross product per hour worked) in the market sector rose in the December quarter by 0.7 per cent. Since the December quarter 1989, labour productivity in the market sector has increased by 8.3 per cent.

GROSS PRODUCT, DECEMBER QUARTER 1993
Trend estimates at average 1989-90 prices

	Gross product (\$ million)	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Manufacturing	15 245	2.2	8.2
Finance, property and business services	11 243	-0.1	-0.5
Community services	11 866	0.8	4.1
Retail	9 299	1.0	2.3
Wholesale	7 450	2.4	6.0
Construction	6 398	-1.2	1.9
Transport and storage	4 725	0.3	3.0
Mining	4 244	-1.8	-2.3
Recreation, personal and other services	4 375	1.9	6.2
Agriculture, etc.	4 152	1.3	3.8
Public administration and defence	3 735	-0.7	-0.7
Electricity, gas and water	3 186	0.3	2.7
Communication	2 654	1.8	4.9
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	8 557	0.5	2.2
Gross domestic product (GDP(P))	97 129	0.8	3.3

For further information, order the publication *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (5206.0)*, or contact Henry Foira on (06) 252 6708 concerning constant price expenditure estimates or Leon Ting on (06) 252 6801 concerning constant price industry estimates.

Manufacturing the star performer as industrial growth continues

The trend estimate of industrial production rose in the December quarter 1993 for the seventh successive quarter. The rate of growth has picked up over the last five quarters following a fairly stagnant period since early 1989.

The industrial production trend grew by 1.1 per cent in the December quarter, following growth of 1.4 per cent in the September quarter, 1.5 per cent in the June quarter, and 1.1 per cent in the March quarter. It is now 5.1 per cent above the December quarter 1992 estimate.

The 'industrial sector' covers mining, manufacturing, and utilities (electricity, gas and water), but is dominated by movements in the manufacturing industry. Of the three component series, manufacturing and utilities showed trend growth in the latest two quarters, while the mining sector fell.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES

Trend estimates, December quarter 1993

Percentage change

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Mining (excluding services to mining)	-2.0	-2.6
Manufacturing	2.2	8.1
Electricity, gas and water	0.3	2.7
<i>Total industrial production</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>5.1</i>

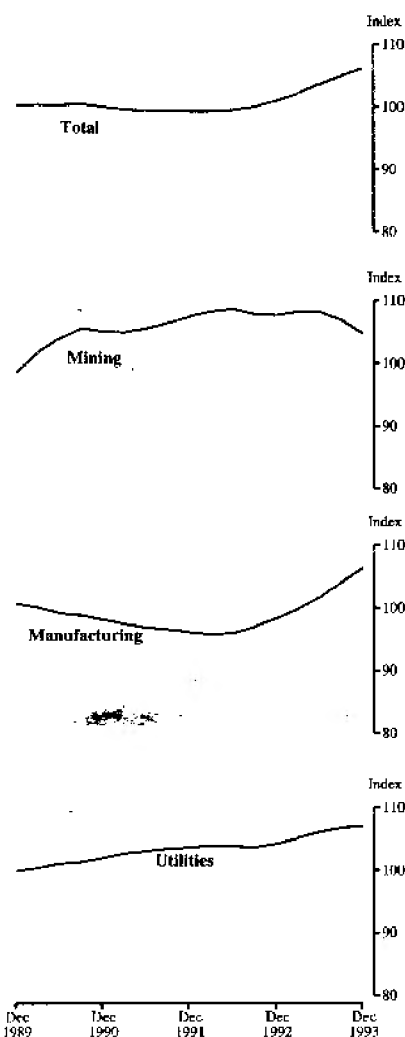
The trend in the index of manufacturing production grew in the December quarter 1993 for the seventh consecutive quarter. Strong growth in the last two quarters (2.2% and 2.4% respectively) confirms a recovery from the turning point in the March quarter 1992.

Within the manufacturing industry, growth in the trend of gross product over recent quarters has been shown by: food, beverages and tobacco; paper, printing and publishing; chemical, petroleum and coal products; non-metallic mineral products; basic metal products; fabricated metal products; transport equipment; and other machinery and equipment. The trend in production has fallen for textiles; clothing and footwear; wood, wood products and furniture; and miscellaneous manufacturing.

The trend in the index of mining production has fallen markedly over the last two quarters (down 2.0% and 1.2% respectively) following a flat period.

Utilities continued their recent trend of weak growth in the December quarter 1993.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
Trend estimates at average 1989-90 prices



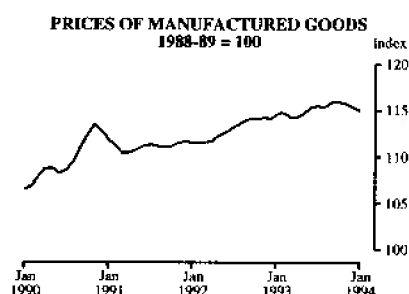
Manufacturers' prices dip ...

The price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry decreased by 0.3 per cent in January 1994, the fourth successive monthly decline.

The January fall in the index was due mainly to lower prices for refined petroleum products, reflecting a decrease in Prices Surveillance Authority maximum endorsed prices.

These decreases were partially offset by small increases for about 40 per cent of the items in the index.

The Manufacturing Division Index increased by 0.4 per cent between January 1993 and January 1994.



PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JANUARY 1994

Percentage change

<i>Manufacturing sector</i>	<i>From previous month</i>	<i>From corresponding month of previous year</i>
Food, beverages and tobacco	-0.1	3.2
Transport equipment	0.3	3.0
Clothing and footwear	-0.2	0.6
Other industrial machinery and equipment	0.0	0.0
Chemicals and chemical products	0.3	-0.6
Fabricated metal products	-0.1	-0.1
Basic metal products	-0.3	-1.3
Petroleum products	-6.1	-17.8
<i>Total manufacturing</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>0.4</i>

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

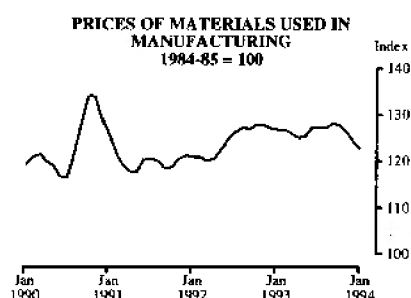
... but so do materials costs

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries fell by 1.0 per cent between December 1993 and January 1994, and was 3.2 per cent below its January 1993 level. This was the largest annual fall since January 1992.

Prices of imported materials fell by 2.2 per cent while prices of home produced materials fell by 0.5 per cent in January.

Price falls for a range of imported materials were mainly due to a continuing recovery in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies and a further fall in world oil prices during January.

Lower prices for domestic crude petroleum were the major contributor to the fall in the home produced materials index during January. Partly offsetting this decrease was an increase in prices for metal ores and concentrates. This reflects a recovery in price for most of the major metals following lengthy periods of falling prices.



The table below summarises the price movements.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, JANUARY 1994
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	-2.2	-0.8
Home produced	-0.5	-4.5
<i>All manufacturing</i>	-1.0	-3.2

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Fall in export prices and ...

The Export Price Index fell by 2.4 per cent between December 1993 and January 1994.

The fall in the index was mainly a result of the increase in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies. The stronger Australian dollar resulted in lower prices (in Australian dollar terms) for a wide range of exports. In addition, lower world oil prices led to price falls for petroleum products and liquefied natural gas, while lower auction prices resulted in lower export prices for wool.

These price falls were partly offset by price rises for a number of items.

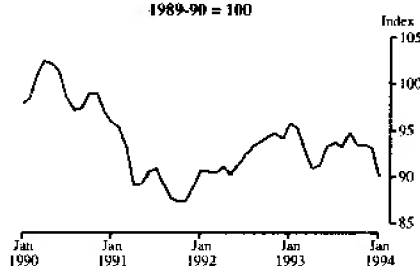
Between January 1993 and January 1994 the Export Price Index decreased by 5.0 per cent.

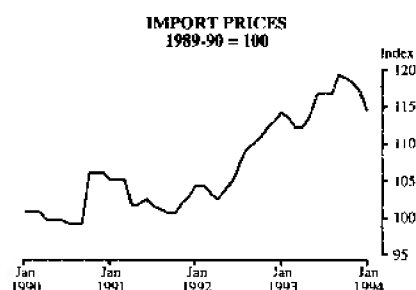
Price changes for major commodity groups are shown below.

EXPORT PRICES, JANUARY 1994
Percentage change

Commodity group	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Prepared food stuffs	-1.7	7.1
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	-1.0	5.2
Live animals and animal products	-0.9	1.7
Machinery and appliances	-1.2	-2.6
Products of chemicals or allied industries	-3.0	-4.8
Wool and cotton fibres	-2.8	-7.9
Vegetable products	-1.4	-9.8
Base metals	-0.4	-10.6
Mineral products	-4.2	-11.1
Gold, diamonds and coin	-2.3	11.9
<i>All exports</i>	-2.4	-5.0

EXPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100





... similar fall in import prices

The Import Price Index fell by 2.3 per cent in January 1994.

A continuing recovery in the value of the Australian dollar and further falls in world oil prices (crude petroleum fell 8.7% in January) were the major contributors to the decrease, the largest of four successive monthly falls in the index.

Between January 1993 and January 1994 the index increased by 0.2 per cent.

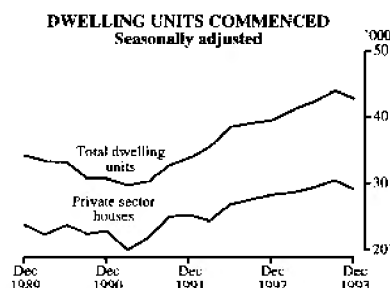
Price changes for selected items are shown below.

IMPORT PRICES, JANUARY 1994
Percentage change

<i>Selected items</i>	<i>From previous month</i>	<i>From corresponding month of previous year</i>
Crude materials	-3.9	14.9
Commodities and transactions	-2.4	13.4
Machinery and transport equipment	-2.5	1.9
Food and live animals	-0.6	1.9
Manufactured goods	-1.4	0.5
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	-2.3	-0.3
Chemical products	-1.2	-5.8
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-4.8	-6.6
Beverages and tobacco	-0.7	-11.3
Mineral fuels, etc.	-6.6	-12.9
<i>All groups</i>	-2.3	0.2

For further information, order the publication *Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0)* or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Housing starts down for the quarter but remain high



In seasonally adjusted terms, the preliminary estimate of the number of dwelling units commenced in the December quarter 1993 was 42 691, down 2.7 per cent from the high September quarter 1993 estimate, but 8.2 per cent above the December quarter 1992 estimate. Private sector house commencements fell by 4.5 per cent to 29 076 in the latest quarter (again, from a high September quarter base), but remained 2.8 per cent above the December quarter 1992 estimate. With seasonally adjusted dwelling unit approvals remaining strong in December 1993 and January 1994, it is likely that the March quarter 1994 dwelling unit commencements will remain around the high levels observed for the September and December quarters 1993.

For the calendar year 1993, there were 170 090 dwelling units commenced in Australia. Of these, 121 646 (71.5%) were separate houses, while the remaining 48 444 were medium density developments (flats, units, townhouses, apartments, etc.).

Queensland led the way in dwelling unit commencements in 1993 with 51 016 or 30 per cent of the national total, followed by New South Wales with 45 284 (26.6%), Victoria, 29 844 (17.5%) and Western Australia where 22 719 (13.4%) dwelling units were commenced.

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS, DECEMBER QUARTER 1993

	Number	Percentage change	
		From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Private sector houses			
Seasonally adjusted	29 076	- 4.5	2.8
Original	30 843	- 2.5	2.8
Total dwelling units			
Seasonally adjusted	42 691	- 2.7	8.2
Original	44 187	- 3.5	8.1

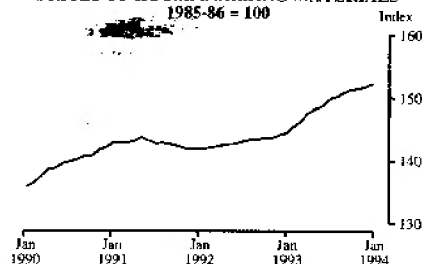
For further information, order the publication *Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (8750.0)*, or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

Timber pushes up building costs

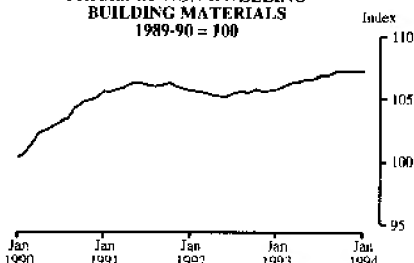
From December 1993 to January 1994 prices of materials used in the construction of houses increased by 0.3 per cent while prices of materials used in other building remained unchanged.

An increase in the price of structural timber (0.7%) was the main contributor to the overall increase in building materials used in house building. Prices for structural timber rose by 21.5 per cent in the year to January.

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



PRICES OF NON-DWELLING
BUILDING MATERIALS
1989-90 = 100



PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, JANUARY 1994

City	Percentage change			
	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.3	5.3	0.0	0.4
Melbourne	0.3	6.8	0.1	2.4
Brisbane	0.1	2.9	0.0	0.7
Adelaide	0.5	12.1	0.0	2.8
Perth	0.2	1.9	0.2	1.2
Hobart	0.6	2.7	0.1	1.8
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.3	5.5	0.0	1.3
Canberra	0.2	5.8	0.0	1.1

From January 1993 to January 1994 prices of all materials used in house building increased by 5.5 per cent while prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 1.3 per cent.

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6407.0)*, or contact Robert Adams (06) 252 6198.

Home finance forges forward

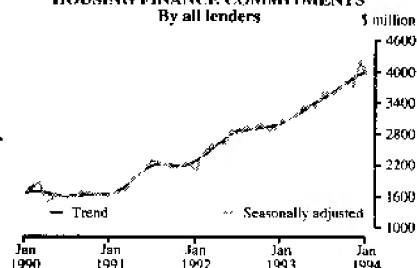
The provisional trend estimate of the number of dwelling units for which finance was committed in January 1994 was up 2.0 per cent on the revised December 1993 figure.

The revised monthly growth in the trend for December is now 2.6 per cent and for November 2.8 per cent. Both these figures are significantly lower than previously published, the revisions being made following the discovery of a flaw in the reporting of one major lending institution.

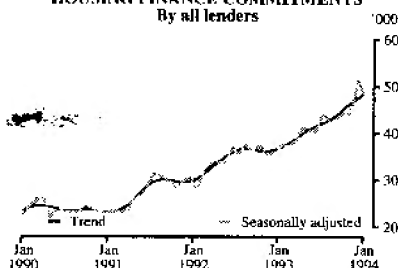
There were again increases in January in the trend estimates for each of the three categories of housing financed, with 'construction of dwellings', up 2.5 per cent, 'purchase of newly erected dwellings', 4.2 per cent, and 'purchase of established dwellings' 1.7 per cent.

Refinancing accounted for 13.5 per cent of the total dwellings financed in January 1994 in unadjusted terms, up from 13.0 per cent in the previous month, and 13.0 per cent in January 1993.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
By all lenders



HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
By all lenders



HOUSING FINANCE, JANUARY 1994
Number of dwellings

	Established dwellings	Construction of dwellings	Newly erected dwellings	Total
% change from December 1993				
Trend	1.7	2.5	4.2	2.0
Seasonally adjusted	-7.1	-8.9	-0.6	-7.2
Unadjusted	-21.2	-23.4	-14.5	-21.3
% change from January 1993				
Trend	29.9	33.5	41.9	31.2
Seasonally adjusted	27.6	27.5	40.0	28.1
Unadjusted	28.0	26.7	40.8	28.3

In seasonally adjusted terms, the number of dwelling units financed in January 1994 decreased by 7.2 per cent compared with December 1993, but increased by 28.1 per cent over January 1993. The unadjusted number of dwelling units financed in January was down 21.3 per cent on December but was 28.3 per cent higher than in January 1993.

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0)*, or contact Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7117.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Editor

Rad Leovic
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
24 March 1994

Rates of pay in brief ...

Over the 12 months to January 1994, the weekly award rates of pay index for full-time adult employees rose by 0.9 per cent. For full-time adult males and full-time adult females the indexes rose by 0.8 per cent and 1.0 per cent respectively.

The largest movements over the period for full-time adult females occurred in the recreation, personal and other services industry (3.3%), and in the wholesale and retail trade industry (1.9%). For full-time adult males the largest increases occurred in the wholesale and retail trade industry (1.9%), in the public administration and defence industry, and in the recreation, personal and other services industry (both 1.6%).

Source: Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia, January 1994 (6312.0).

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 5 April

- 23** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, February 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; \$12.00)
- 25** Manufacturing Production Australia, February 1994, Preliminary (8301.0; \$11.00)
- 30** Balance of Payments, Australia, February 1994 (5301.0; \$16.50)
Building Approvals, Australia, February 1994 (8731.0; \$13.50)
- 31** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, February 1994 (6354.0; \$13.00)

Selected releases: 16 to 22 March

General

Australian Transport Freight Commodity Classification (ATFCC) and Australian Pack Classification (APC), 1993 (1210.0; \$25.50)

Economic Indicators, Qld, March 1994 (1307.3; \$6.50)

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk, December Qtr 1993 (5228.0; \$90.00)

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., January 1994 (5609.0; \$11.00)

Agriculture

Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, Vic., 1992–93 (7120.2; \$16.50)

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, January 1994 (7204.3; \$5.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and construction

Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Aust., December Qtr 1993 (8125.0; \$11.00)

Building Activity, Aust.: Dwelling Unit Commencements, December Qtr 1993, Preliminary (8750.0; \$11.00)

Tourist Accommodation, Vic., December Qtr 1993 (8635.2; \$25.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements, WA, December 1993 (8741.5; \$11.00)

Tourist Accommodation, SA, December Qtr 1993 (8635.4; \$25.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	December qtr 93	\$m	105 897	98 581	1.7	4.0
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	January 94	\$m	- 1 395	- 1 265	21	- 63
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	- 33	152	—	- 62
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	- 60	- 10	98	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	4 761	5 322	4	5
Merchandise imports	"	"	- 4 794	- 5 170	- 5	11
Net foreign debt	December qtr 93	\$m	171 980	n.a.	1.3	5.2
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	244 540	n.a.	3.7	16.9
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	January 94	\$m	8 015	8 463	1.5	4.9
New capital expenditure at current prices	December qtr 93	"	7 209	6 695	3.2	- 2.5
New motor vehicle registrations (d)	January 94	no.	36 662	48 762	6.3	9.0
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	December qtr 93	\$m	38 567	36 863	3.1	9.4
Dwelling unit approvals	January 94	no.	12 774	16 166	6.1	8.4
Building approvals	January 94	\$m	1 805	2 015	- 10.6	- 10.7
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	September qtr 93	"	6 433	6 268	3.1	5.0
Prices						
Consumer price index	December qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	110.0	n.a.	0.2	1.9
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	January 94	1988-89 = 100.0	115.0	n.a.	- 0.3	0.4
Materials used in manufacturing industries	December 93	1984-85 = 100.0	124.0	n.a.	- 1.6	- 2.4
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	February 94	'000	7 752.1	7 819.7	0.2	2.9
Participation rate †	"	%	63.1	62.9	0.0	0.6
Unemployment rate †	"	"	11.5	10.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
Job vacancies	November qtr 93	'000	38.2	38.9	5.1	31.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.30	1.22	1.7	8.0
Estimated resident population	September qtr 93	million	17.7	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	December 93	'000	345	253	- 2.5	12.5
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	December qtr 93	\$m	6 618	5 255	2.5	33.5
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	November 93	\$	604.20	603.40	- 0.3	3.0
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	February 94	% per annum	4.80	n.a.	0.0	- 1.00
10-year Treasury bonds †	February 94	"	7.05	n.a.	0.7	- 0.95
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	January 94	per \$A	0.6956	n.a.	3	3

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 23 March 1994.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

		Percentage change from same period previous year								
Key State indicators	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	September qtr 93	- 8.1	25.5	- 4.0	27.3	16.9	7.5	n.a.	n.a.	6.9
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	January 94	4.5	3.3	5.2	7.1	10.5	3.8	n.a.	7.4	5.0
New motor vehicle registrations†	January 94	13.0	10.5	6.8	- 3.5	3.1	2.8	- 3.9	34.3	9.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	January 94	- 1.3	3.3	16.2	- 15.3	- 1.5	11.7	153.3	158.5	8.4
Value of total building work done	September qtr 93	0.4	4.1	9.2	10.3	20.9	13.3	1.1	- 6.9	5.6
Employed persons*	February 94	3.2	1.4	4.2	- 0.4	5.8	3.6	- 1.9	2.3	2.9
Capital city consumer price index	December qtr 93	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	November 93	2.5	2.2	5.0	2.5	3.3	4.2	0.5	3.7	3.0
Population	September qtr 93	0.9	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	September qtr 93	6.3	0.1	9.1	2.4	9.0	5.4	18.4	12.0	6.7

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 11). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

